

Message Text

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62/42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CU-02 L-03 H-02

SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

IOE-00 /063 W

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O R 041522Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4846

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07857

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EO LINE TO GDS VICE N/A)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,VOCON, UNESCO, IS, BE

SUBJECT: ISRAEL ASKS BELGIUM NOT TO INTRODUCE PRO-ISRAEL UNESCO
RESOLUTION

REF: A. BRUSSELS 7798 B. STATE 209580

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S BARON DE SELYS TOLD US SEPTEMBER 4 THAT SENIOR
ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIAL CALLED ON HIM AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 3 AND
REQUESTED THAT BELGIUM NOT REPEAT NOT INTRODUCE ANY RESOLUTION AT
UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD SEEKING INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN UNESCO'S
EUROPEAN GROUP. DE SELYS SUMMARIZED ISRAELI ARGUMENT AS FOLLOWS:

A. ANY SUCH RESOLUTION WOULD DEMONSTRATE "GOOD INTENTIONS"
OF SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS BUT WOULD BE OTHERWISE "MEANINGLESS"
SINCE SUCH EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE LITTLE OR NO
IMPACT ON 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, WHICH IS PLENARY BODY AND CAN
DO ANYTHING IT WISHES.

B. AN EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL, HOWEVER, WOULD BE
HAILED IN UNITED STATES AND PRESENTED TO U.S. CONGRESS AS
EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS OR EVEN AS "SOLUTION" TO ISRAEL EXCLUSION

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PROBLEM.

C. ON THAT BASIS, CONGRESS (AND PERHAPS FRENCH AND SWISS LEGISLATURES ALSO) MIGHT PREMATURELY RESCIND EXISTING BANS ON UNESCO FUNDING BEFORE 1976 GENERAL CONFERENCE EVEN MEETS AFD FACES ISRAELI ISSUE.

D. IF RESOLUTION RELATING TO ISRAEL WERE INTRODUCED ANYWAY AT EXECUTIVE BOARD, ISRAEL WOULD EXPECT HER FRIENDS TO SUPPORT IT.

2. DE SELYS SAID HE DISCUSSED ABOVE ISRAELI DEMARCHE WITH MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR DAVIGNON AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 3 BEFORE DAVIGNON LEFT FOR EC-9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN ROME. DE SELYS STATED THAT DAVIGNON WOULD SEEK TO CONSULT WITH EK-9 COLLEAGUES IN ROME ON ISRAEL/UNESCO ISSUE. DE SELYS SAID THAT HE AND DAVIGNON WOULD TALK ON TELEPHONE SEPTEMBER 8, AFTER WHICH TIME DE SELYS SAID HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL US DEFINITELY WHETHER BELGIUM WILL INTRODUCE RESOLUTUION ON ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN GROUP (REF. A).

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, DE SELYS SAID THAT ISJAEEL HAD ASKED THAT BELGIUM NO REPEAT NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY TO UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'DOW'S REQUEST FOR BELGIAN INTEREST-FJEE LOAN TO UNESCO TO ALLEVIATE CURRENT FINANCIAL PINCH. DE SELYS SAID THAT BELGIUM AND OTHER EC-9 MEMBERS WOULD SAY NO TO M'BOW REQUEST BUT PROBLEM WAS HOW TO SAY NO GRACEFULLY.

4. DE SELYS SAID A REPORT IS CURCULATING THAT ARABS ARE CONTEMPLATING A \$27 MILLION LOAN TO UNESCO. HE SAID BELIANS ARE CONCERNED, IF THIS COMES TO PASS, OVER RESULTING INCREASED ARAB INFLUENCE IN THE AGENCY.

5. COMMENT: ISRAELIS OBVIOUSLY HAVE NO WISH TO SEE UNESCO'S FINANCIAL SUFFERING EASED UNTIL THE "RESTRICTED" SIGN IS ACTUALLY TAKEN OF THE AGENCY'S DOOR. WHETHER OR NOT WE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BRING ISJAEEL AROUND TO SEE THE WISDOM OF OUR WAYS, CHANCES OF BELGIUM TAKING THE INITIATIVE ON THE PROPOSED EXBOARD RESOLUTION ARE NOT GOOD. RENNER

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